

WATOGA STATE PARK

ARTIFICIAL LAKE IN WATOGA STATE PARK.

The Watoga State Park is situated in the Little Levels District of Pocahontas County. This is the largest of the State Parks, From the beginning a play area of great popularity, Watogas luxuriant foliage and wild flower growth has enhanced a mountain setting ideal for vacation outings. The Greenbrier River, which many visitors cross by a picturesque ferry ^{at} Seebert, is the boundary which sets Watoga apart from humdrum activities. Miles of motor roads, as in all state parks and state forests, lead to cabin areas and administration headquarters.

At the headquarters, situated above a 11-acre artificial lake, is a dining room a park store, curio shop and superintendent's office. Boats and bicycles may be rented. The twenty five cabins, divided in two general cabin groups, seem lost in the vastness of the the area. A new picnic ground area and playground have been completed. Work on a concrete swimming pool, one of the largest of such pools have in the State is being pushed during winter in the expectation that it may be ready for use during the coming summer. A riding academy provides gaited horses for rides along the bridle paths. A large heard of Deer has made this park its home. The profusion of growing things led to the establishment of a memorial arboretum under sponsorship of the West Virginia Academy of Science, where visitors may see scores of varied and wild flowers and other native wild plants in their native habitat

This Artificial Lake which is situated on the Island Lick Run in the north eastern part of Park area it covers more than 11 acres and is and is approximately 30 feet deep it is clear at all times, it is supplied with Rainbow, and Brook Trout, and Bass, and a colony of Beaver is located at the head of the lake. This Lake was called KILLBUCK Lake after an Indian Chieftain of the Shawnee tribe who gave the pioneer settlers trouble, for a long series of years and when hostilities ceased went to his home in Ohio,

aided Marlins Bottom and killed and captured 18 persons. This was August 12, 1755.

Lewis had been here in a kind of fort called Fort Greenbrier just before and after Braddock's defeat, but he had taken some Indian prisoners at this place and marched them to Fort Dinwiddle on the eastern side of the Allegheny.

Finally four years after Virginia had become an independent state and called herself the Commonwealth of Virginia, Lewis got his deed. Thomas Jefferson, Governor, reciting that Lewis had made composition with the commonwealth by the paying of two shillings, he was given a grant or deed for 480 acres of land at the mouth of Weings(knob) Creek by virtue of a survey made Oct. 11, 1751. This deed was given June 2, 1780. The Revolution had been about won by that time. The general's delay in proving up his land claims can easily be accounted for by the fact that he was busy with the affairs of the French and Indian War and he had been detained as a prisoner of war in Canada.

He came back from Canada in broken health in 1780, leaving a will by which he gave the 480 acres at Marlins Bottom to his son John Lewis. John Lewis died the next year leaving the land to four of his children, Charles, Samuel, Andrew and Eliza. They in turn sold it to Jacob Warwick and Warwick signed the title bond to William Poage Jr. as a marriage portion. Poage was a Major in the war of 1812. He was one of the charter members of the court that formed Pocahontas County, and was sheriff of the county. He died in 1827 leaving the land to two of his children, Woods Poage and Margaret Poage (Mrs. James A. Price).

The next move in title was that Woods Poage sold his half of the land to his brother-in-law James A. Price, this gave the Prices 2,211 acres in and around Marlins Bottom. Later James Price sold the Woods Poage farm to Dr. George B. Moffett, who in turn sold one half of it to Hugh McLaughlin. When the town site was proposed in 1891 as the last of the Virginia Boom towns, the title was in the names of the following persons: William H. McClintic, William J. McLaughlin, A. M. McLaughlin, Samuel D. Price, William T. Price, James H. Price and Levi Gay.

These were all farms. There were no commercial activities whatever. Huntersville was town. Buckeye and Edray were the nearest stores

From:--1926 Blue Book by Andrew Price

From:--Pocahontas Times--Dec. 24, 1936

In December of 1890 an epoch making snow fell, making it the winter of the big snow. While it lay on the ground to the depth of three feet or more, Colonel John T. McGraw of Grafton made a visit to this county and purchased the farms known as Marlins Bottom for a town site. The name of the postoffice had been changed in 1887 from Marlins Bottom to Marlinton. Mrs. Janie B. Skyles, a Maryland lady, was instrumental in bringing about the change. She objected to the word Bottom as not being a nice word. The old timers were horrified when they found the name had been changed, but the harm had been done and all appeal to congress failed to undo the harm. Mr. Skyles soon afterwards moved away but she left us christened with a new name.

The purchase of the town site by Colonel McGraw was the first intimation that the people had of the proposed railway developments. The plan was that the Camden System of railroads was to extend up Williams River, across the divide at the head of Stony Creek and to Marlinton. It was a part of the plan that the Chesapeake and Ohio would build an extension from Hot Springs to Marlinton to connect with the Camden. The railroad was not built at that time because of a money panic which came to the county. Colonel McGraw, who had invested largely in lands elsewhere in the county, never ceased to try to interest capitalists in this county and develop it with a railroad. His attention was called to the natural route for a railroad up Greenbrier River. He had a survey made from Marlinton to Ronceverte at a cost of \$10,000, and it was on this location that the railroad was afterwards begun in 1899 and finished in 1901.

The town of Marlinton was laid off in town lots in 1891, and widely advertised as a place where a town could be built. The Pocahontas Development Company was chartered and took a deed for 640 acres on which the town was to be built. They put valuable improvement on it. An offer of \$5,000 to be applied on a new courthouse was made, if the people of the county would change the county seat from Huntersville to Marlinton. The election held in the fall of 1891 gave the county seat to Marlinton. At that time Marlinton had a population of about 100 people.

Marlinton began to improve as soon as the railroad was completed. It was incorporated at the April Term of Court, 1900, and held its first election on May 5, 1900.

THE HISTORY OF HILLSBORO COMMUNITY

(By Mary Isetta Wallace)

The town of Hillsboro is located in a rich and beautiful valley. It is two and one-half miles from the nearest railroad station called Seabert and named in honor of a family by the name which settled there in the wilderness in the early days. Hillsboro was named for Richard Hill, the pioneer from North Carolina who built his home on a good farm in the neighborhood of Lobelia. His house was an unusually good one for that age. Simon Girty, the renegade, told that the Indians were so impressed with the fine display of the home of Mr. Hill that they called him the White's Wedding.

The house was built of hewed logs, and the space between was filled with wool and mortar or mud, and then whitewashed. It had three porches, two tall chimneys and eight rooms. Hills Creek was named for Mr. Hill, and, because of his sterling worth, "will sing his requiem as long as its waters flow". The creek flows through a narrow channel which increases its velocity until it plunges over a precipice more than sixty feet high, forming a perfect spray and creating the beautiful Falls of Hills Creek.

Bruffeys Creek, named after the first settler, John Bruffey the pioneer, Revolutionary soldier under General Wayne, unites in time of flood with Hills Creek where their waters sink under Droop mountain to appear again in the lower end of the Little Levels. Hills Creek forms Locust creek and empties into the Greenbrier River. And the Green forms Hughes creek, and after sinking and partly sinking for two miles, empties into the Blue Hole. Many of the numerous progeny of Richard Hill founded their homes in the Hillsboro community.

The majority of the people of Hillsboro Community are of Scotch Irish descent, their chief pursuits being agriculture and stock raising. Many fine herds of cattle and sheep, from time immemorial, have been prepared for the eastern markets, and at the present time under the stimulus of our county agent, Mr. H.C. C. Willey, the farmers are becoming thoroughly aroused as to the importance of purebred stock.

As the traveler ascends by an easy climb and gentle undulations the winding road out on the face of Droop Mountain he beholds a panorama of unsurpassed loveliness when the sun pours his effulgent warmth and brightness over mountains, plains, valleys and hills as they unite in proclaiming "The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice." He also beholds historic ground, for it was at the foot of Droop Mountain where General Averill with 5000 men pitched their tents before the battle of Droop Mountain which began on November 6, 1863.

Hillsboro has always been a religious and educational center. John Jordan of Pioneer fame, gave a building site to the Methodist church, which was destroyed by fire. They have since built four other churches in the community and now worship in a very comfortable, commodious building in the town of Hillsboro. In extracts from the journal of Rev. Francis Asbury, we find that in the years 1788, 1790 and 1796 he made three evangelistic tours through this section of the country, coming up through Greenbrier County, each time and being entertained and preaching at the home of McNeel in the Little Levels, going from there to the Drinnen home where he was received so "gladly" and entertained so "kindly" in the Edray neighborhood. His course led from there to Cloverlick, down through Tygarts Valley in Randolph County enroute to Morgantown. At the McNeel home lively religious discussions were indulged in by the whole community.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church was organized in the year 1793. The early records of the Church were lost and no one remembers when it was built. A substantial brick structure in which this sect worshiped for many years was later built south east of Hillsboro, where the cemetery is still kept up. In 1830 the church was re-organized and Josiah Beard, Davis Poague, and John Jordan were elected elders. The most distinguished ministers who served this Church from 1820 to 1872 were Rev. Joseph Brown, Rev. Wm. C. Campbell, Rev. John S. Blain, Rev. Mitchell S. Dunlap and Rev. D. S. Sydenstricker.

In the early part of the eighteenth century a very important educational work flourished in what was then the Village of Hillsboro. Under the supervision of Rev.

From the brick Academy was built and contained one large central room with
 wings. The name of Hillsboro was abandoned in deference to that of "Academy" so
 was the impression of the schools' influence on the minds and hearts of the
 people. In recent years the old name of Hillsboro has been restored to the town.

W. A. Dunlap, of Ponca City, Oklahoma, has contributed some recollections of
 the bellum days from his remarkable memory of conversations heard in the home of his
 father, Rev. M. A. Dunlap. He thinks the first teacher ever in Hillsboro community
 was a man by the name of Keenan who taught more than a hundred years ago. This teacher
 was considered a very learned man from the fact that he could read and write and had
 figured in the arithmetic as far as the rule of three.

The next teacher was Rev. John S. Blain, a Presbyterian preacher, a teacher,
 and a physician. He is described as a large, lean, strong man, possessed of a kindly
 and gentle heart. The description is somewhat contradictory as he is said to
 have whipped 13 boys the second day of school, 21 the third day, and five or six
 each day for about a week. After that no further trouble was experienced. "At the
 school had an unsavory reputation that had to be disciplined and he used the means
 within his power. The wife of Dr. Blain was a Miss MacRoberts, sister of Archibald
 MacRoberts, who made his home with them, told that panthers would sometimes enter
 their spring house and drink their milk. Mrs. MacRoberts, whose father was Randolph,
 of Kentucky, and a descendant of Pocahontas, was the next teacher. He was well educated
 and a man of great talents that he used only under compulsion. He was a Whig, and
 in a campaign then being conducted between a Whig and a Democrat, in which the Whig
 was defeated in the argument, Mr. MacRoberts became so disgusted that he followed
 them to the next appointment and so completely routed the Democrat that he made it
 suit to steer clear of his antagonist.

The next teacher was Rev. Joseph Brown, whose gentle Christian character
 was known to the people; and it is to be taken for granted that as he was instrumental
 in the building of the brick Academy, he must have been the first teacher within its
 walls. Rev. J. S. Dunlap succeeded him and taught from 1836 to 1848. His school had a
 wide reputation among his pupils and enjoyed the patronage of the ladies and

of Kanawha county; Tyrees and others of Fayette county; the Haynes and others of Boone county; the Johnsons, Bears, and others of Greenbrier county; the Lightners, and Ruchmans, of Highland county, Virginia, and the Lewises and others of Bath county, Virginia. He taught throughout the entire year and sought the help of the more advanced pupils, notably, Rev. Wm. P. Price and Rev. James Haynes. It was his opinion that about eighty pupils were as many as one man could handle.

Miss Mary Sprinkel taught in the home of Colonel McNeel, the first year of the Civil War, and was betrothed to John Burgess, the first man from this community to be killed by the Northern soldiers in their initial raid through the country.

From the foregoing interesting data it is easy to understand why so many noble and worthy lives were molded in this fine institution of learning. The lives of Mr. Hermanus Stulting and family deserve special mention. They were natives of Holland, and to escape religious persecution, braved the perils of the deep on the rude craft of that day and came to dwell among us when the country was in its infancy. They were valuable additions to the social life of the community and through their devoted piety accomplished much good in this land of their adoption. Mr. Cornelius Stulting, eldest son in the family, was a fine teacher for many years and died recently, mourned by all who knew him. Mrs. Carrie Stulting Sydenstricker, a daughter in the family, gave her life as a missionary to China, being sent as a member of Oak Grove Church.

Pioneers. The first permanent settler in the wilderness of the Hillstero community was John McNeel, of Frederick County, Virginia. He was of a pugilistic temperament and in the fear that he had slain his antagonist, fled from his native land and became a fugitive who followed the trend of the Alleghenies. After spending sometime in their gloomy depths he emerged into this section of the country and was so favorably impressed with the fertile land, fine timber and the general outlook of a goodly place to dwell, that he cast his tent on the gentle slope between where are now the gate at the road and the father John McNeel residence. He came here in the year 1755. After he began to occupy his tent steps were heard circling the camp

night. He feigned sleep, keeping his gun near at hand, until he heard something creep upon the poles forming the roof. When he looked in the direction of the sound he beheld, by the light of the camp fire, the fiery eyes of a panther. He lost no time in getting rid of the unwelcome visitor.

On day while out hunting for venison and fish he met Charles and Jacob Kennison, natives of his home land, who proved angels in disguise in bringing to him the glad tidings that the man he thought he had killed had recovered and was in good health. Imagination fails to convey the great relief and gratitude that filled his heart to know he was not a murderer, of which his future life gave convincing evidence. He invited the Kennisons to share his camp and aided them in selecting a home site adjoining his tract. About this time John McNeel must have built himself a cabin in the rear of the Matthew John McNeel residence, near a wonderful spring in that locality. These three men soon returned to the lower valley of Virginia. It was on this visit that he married Martha Davis who was born in Wales in 1840. Soon after their marriage they came to the Little Levels to make their home. They brought with them a Welch Bible now in the possession of Joseph S. McNeel, son of Captain William Lamb McNeel.

Joseph McNeel is the man who offered, free of charge, marble or granite to build our new State Capitol. This stone exists in great abundance within our beautiful hills that encompass our mountains and that shelter our valley on the West. It has been a source of great disappointment to many to have such a generous offer rejected and one that if it had been accepted would have filled the heart of every citizen with a just and civic pride.

John McNeel was so deeply impressed with a sense of God's providential care that, in gratitude of him, he built the White Pole Church on the hill set apart for the school cemetery, the first church in the community. These three men joined the expedition to Point Pleasant in October 10, 1774. They were spared to return home, for a short time, as they enlisted in a company formed in Frederick County, Virginia, during the Revolution. After that experience they returned to the Country and resumed "the even tenor of their lives".

folk tradition informs us that while John Lusk was at Point Pleasant he was born and died before his return, and that the mother, with her own hands, made the coffin, dug the grave and buried the child. This was the first grave in the Lusk cemetery, near the White Pole Church, which spot affords such charming landscape views of the surrounding country.

And now we come to the northern section of the Hillsboro community which is Mill Point, a charming little industrial village including within its proper limits a store, a blacksmith shop, two flour mills and three homes. Many more homes are close by built on the hills and nestling in the coves and glens. Tourists exclaim over the majestic sweep of the hills and their graceful contour as they converge toward the village enclosing a scene of entrancing beauty.

Just above the village a beautiful and picturesque spring is found tucked away in a sheltered nook among the lovely foothills that dip their feet into the laughing waters of Stamping Creek, informing each other that the whites were aroused and that they must flee.

The people who live in this community are the McKeels, Beards, Clarks, Morrisons, Glendenins, Bruffeys, Hills, Moores, Clutters, Auldridges, Harpers, Kennisons, Wades, Lewises, McLartyes, McCoys, Smiths, Cockleys, Ruckmans, McLaughlins and others.

(In the preparation of this article the writer is greatly indebted to Dr. Wm. T. Price's History of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, Border Warfare, as well as to friends and neighbors).

From - Pocahontas Times

May 4, 1924.

GREEN BANK DISTRICT

-Focahontas county

Green Bank District is the most northern district in ~~the~~ ^{Focahontas} county. It is bounded on the north and north-west by Randolph County, on the east by Pendleton and Highland counties, south by Huntersville and Edray Districts. The surface is broken and mountainous. The fountain streams of the Greenbrier river constitute the drainage system. Among these are the east and west branches of the Greenbrier river, Little River, Deer Creek, North fork of Deer Creek and Leatherbark Creek.

The old mill which has been mentioned with the machine in connection with the making of tools and implements of iron and steel. This machine was used in drawing out and flanning large iron and steel for making wagon tires, horse shoes, shovel plows, bolts, nails and shaping out heavy iron work. The site of the old Mill and Tilt Hammer is on the land of Henry Wooddell, near Greenbank, in Greenbank District. The pit and embankments may be seen on the west side of the road between Martin Sutton's Blacksmith shop and Henry Wooddell's house. The old Mill race is now used for the county road. This mill was a great labor saving for the community and had its niche in the early development of the community.

Harman Conrad of Frederick County, Maryland, purchased the William Taylor Grant from John Brown, on August 3rd, 1799, and began to harness the water power of North Fork, which was called Cartmills Creek at that time. He built a Tub Mill or corn mill which was kept in running condition for ten or fifteen

The following is a partial list of the soldiers of the war of 1812, who lived in what is now Pocahontas County after the said war. This region was at the time of the War of 1812, under the regime of Bath County; some of these soldiers may have lived in other parts of Virginia, but spent their lives in Pocahontas County; However these soldiers had much to do with the early development of Pocahontas County.

Major William Poage.
Ludy Taylor .
Soloman Conrad.
David Moore .
Joseph Moore .
Preston McCarty.
Justin McCarty .
Thomas McCarty.
John Deennon .
Daniel McCarty.
David Cochran.
John R. Flemming.
William Bradshaw.
John Brown.

The four McCarty brothers who were in the War of 1812 were the sons of Timothy McCarty, the Revolutionary War Soldier; of the four brothers enlisted only one of them returned to Pocahontas County -- who was Daniel McCarty-- to live; The rest either perished in the war, or went to Tennessee or Kentucky. Their home was on the Knappe Creek near Frost Pocahontas County West Va.

John Brown not being married volunteered in his brother Josiah Browns place, was accepted, but never returned; was supposed to have perished in the war.

INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

Topic

Conservation &
Reclamation W. Va.

Title:

Matoga State Park

Author:

Mrs. Rella F. Yeager

Status:

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*From information from the -1-
officials of the camp and from
my own observations while on a
research trip.*

Beautiful Watoga State Park in Pocahontas County is typical of those in all of the state parks being developed by the State Conservation Commission. Watoga has 10,335 acres of land in the Allegheny Mountains east of the Greenbrier river in Pocahontas County. It is under development as a state park and will offer to the public when completed one of the most attractive visiting places in the United States--a "Nature lovers paradise". Plans call for everything that can be added to make it a show place.

There is a large lake eleven acres in extent, for boating, bathing and fishing; a number of ~~artificially built~~ and well furnished cabins; camp sites, picnic grounds; a system of automobile roads, foot trails and bridle paths.

Good fishing may be found in nearby streams in season and hunting upon lands adjacent to the park which in itself constitutes an excellent game preserve.

Watoga Park is the largest of West Virginia State Parks. It is located in heavily wooded rolling mountain country. It has a fine growth of young timber and plant life, so fine in fact that a part of it has been designated as an arboretum.

West Virginia is a mountainous land of rugged beauty and possesses publicly administered forests and parks which represent all phases of the picturesque formations with which nature so richly endowed the state. These areas will serve the three-fold purpose of growing another crop of merchantable timber, providing outdoor recreational facilities for the citizens of the state and visitors and will serve to a considerable extent

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as game preserves from which to repopulate adjacent public shooting and fishing grounds.

The state parks are being developed through the agency of CCC Camps. Much progress has been made in fitting them for the enjoyment of the people. Trips can be arranged for beautiful drives, week ends, Sundays and holidays. One of these parks can be reached in a few hours from almost any section of the State.

In the various camps there is plenty of entertainment for the boys; they can hunt deer, squirrels, grouse and bear in season. They have individual counsel by the Educational advisers in the various camps and by the Company Commander, the doctor and others are available. They get to know the boy, his problems, home conditions, and try to help him get adjusted and get him interested in the camp educational program and recreational hobby and leisure time activity. When they leave camp, 90 per cent of the CCC boys have work. The boys are popular with the public. Many are now coming to believe that the CCC is largely educational training to make the boys better fitted physically, mentally and vocationally to get along in the world; to aid them in self culture, self-expression and better use of leisure time. It is a work for the conservation and training of youth as well as the conservation on national resources.

More and more the public is realizing what the CCC is doing in the camps. The camps are becoming popular and will probably be made permanent. A visit to any of these camps

will make anyone an enthusiast. Visitors enjoy going as they are so kindly welcomed by the officials and camp boys, and they plan another visit to bring some friends who have not been there. Citizenship is stressed in all the camps and many of the fine boys in the camps have gone to their homes better men and better citizens.

Watoga State Forest is a pleasant wooded country and even should the blight kill all the chestnut there are enough trees of other kinds on most of the area to make good cover for the game, many signs of which were noted by the State Foresters, who recently made an estimate of the chestnut timber.

~~Miss Belle Seager~~

This Article was written by
Mr. Wm. B. Curry and given

Walla Walla State Park

Bella F. Yeager

~~State Park~~
Conservation

695 words

(Lookout house - named Ann Bailey)

The Lookout house is a reproduction
of Indian warfare blockhouses.

The trails in Park have been given
Indian names

Source:

Pocahontas times

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Rebecca Yeager
Rella F. Yeager

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Mr. Wm. B. Curry and I*

Rebecca Yeager - 1 -
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WATOOGA STATE PARK

US 219
June 9
The lookout house on Watoga State Park is a reproduction of the block houses of Indian warfare days and most properly it is called for Ann Bailey, a heroine of pioneer times. It is constructed of round logs, two storeys in height. The first floor is fourteen by fourteen feet, with a broad stairway of hewn timber leading to the second story, the dimensions of which are twenty by twenty feet. The roof is of clapboards, sloped four sides. On each side are openings for loop holes and lookout places.

It was the plan of the architect to give these lookout houses names of heroines of frontier days and makers of West Virginia history. Most appropriately, the name of Ann Bailey has been given to the block house on Watoga State Park. Ann Bailey (Mad Ann) was a considerable of a character back in Indian times. Along about 1777 she came to the Fort at Charleston with word of a contemplated raid by the Indians. It was found that the supply of powder was short. Some say there was no spontaneous volunteering on the part of the men of the fort to go to Fort Union (Lewisburg) for a supply of powder and others say that Mrs. Bailey insisted on going herself, and that alone. My guess is that the latter is the true version. Anyway, the lady mounted her horse Liverpool, (named for Mrs. Bailey's birthplace in England) and took the trail for Lewisburg, 110 miles away. When the powder was packed on the horses, the woman scout refused the protection of a detachment of militia men. In about three days time, Mrs. Bailey and her pack train made Charleston. It has always been my understanding that the Indians knew about the shortage of powder

Rebecca Yeager
Rella F. Yeager

*This Article was written by
Mr. Geo. B. Curry and I*

Rebecca Yeager - 1-
Wagon Notes and Pages
Don't forget to write
Rebecca Yeager
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and when they did attack, they received the surprise of their lives. There was powder to burn!

Lookout Ann Bailey is located on the high point, just south-east of Camp Seebert. It overlooks the Parks seven miles frontage on Greenbrier River, with its five bends, from above Seebert to Denmar. To the west are the ramparts of the Back Alleghenies-- Droop, Briery, Sewell, Cranberry and other peaks and ranges of the Black Forest. Below it lies that garden spot, the Little Levels, spoken of in this paper by a visiting son of Albion, in 1877, as reminding him of an English countryside, but for the grim mountains. To the east the Alleghany² Front, and the Beaver lick, while all around are the wooded ridges and deep canyons of the Watoga State Park.

Another interesting and poetic touch was given when it was decided to give Indian names to each of the trails in Watoga State Park. Trails already built and named are:--

The truck trail from Camp Seebert to Camp Watoga is named Momongoseneka from the Delaware, meaning Big Stone Creek.

The truck trail from Denmar to Seebert, following Greenbrier River is to be named Weotawa, from the Miami name for Greenbrier River.

The bridle and foot trail paralleling Rock Run will be Tokeshelloke, from the Delaware, meaning Falling Creek.

The trail from Denmar up Laurel Creek to Camp Watoga is to be Pocateliso, Shawnee for "Plenty of Fat Doe."

The horse and foot trail now in use on the mountain overlooking Seebert is the "Trail of the Cliffs," and the one following Workman Ridge will be Skyway.

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Lookout Ann Bailey is located on the high point, just south-east of Camp Seebert. It overlooks the Parks seven miles frontage on Greenbrier River, with its five bends, from above Seebert to Denmar. To the west are the ramparts of the Back Alleghenies-- Droop, Briery, Sewell, Cranberry and other peaks and ranges of the Black Forest. Below it lies that garden spot, the Little Levels, spoken of in this paper by a visiting son of Albion, in 1877, as reminding him of an English countryside, but for the grim mountains. To the east the Alleghany² Front, and the Beaver lick, while all around are the wooded ridges and deep canyons of the Watoga State Park.

Another interesting and poetic touch was given when it was decided to give Indian names to each of the trails in Watoga State Park. Trails already built and named are:--

The truck trail from Camp Seebert to Camp Watoga is named Momongoseneka from the Delaware, meaning Big Stone Creek.

The truck trail from Denmar to Seebert, following Greenbrier River is to be named Weotawa, from the Miami name for Greenbrier River.

The bridle and foot trail paralleling Rock Run will be Tokeshelloke, from the Delaware, meaning Falling Creek.

The trail from Denmar up Laurel Creek to Camp Watoga is to be Pocatellio, Shawnee for "Plenty of Fat Doe."

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Mr. Billie Hedges *Mr. Wm. H. Curry and J. J. J. J.*

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Hillsboro Wn
August 1 1936

Mr. James C. Herbert - State Reader
Federal Writers Project
Haleman Building
Charleston Wn

Dear Mr. Herbert,

I am sending the article
about Watoga State Park which I hope
will be just what you want.

Mr. Wm B. Curry of the National Park Service
prepared and gave me this article and
it has the approval of the Watoga Park
State officials. Both Mr. Curry and I
have descriptive articles of pretty places
in the Park. I had a delightful trip
to the Park Thursday, after I received
your letter. I think this article is what
you want. Mr. Curry said he had some
fine pictures that would be nice for the article.
If you want them, please let me know and
I will send them. Very truly yours
Mrs. Bell. Heapes

(Mrs. Heapes, and a new civilization

Bella F. Yeager

Bella Yeager

William B. Curry
National Park Service

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Rella F. Yeager

From Camp Traper -1-
and Pocahontas officials
Sent to Rella Yeager
In research work

WATOGA STATE PARK

5000
Watoga State Park is owned by the State of West Virginia and contains 10,025 acres. 500 acres of this being virgin oak and white pine forest, 12 acres in lake, 100 acres of open meadow, leaving a total of 9413 acres of young forests or wooded land, which is well stocked with wild game. Approximately 4000 acres will be left as nature intended. The fame of this park is spreading and this rolling world would like to visit this picnic place on high mountains, clear streams, deep shady canyons, long wooded ridges, and open grassy places.

For the good of the United States as a whole and of West Virginia and its adjoining states in particular, it is a necessity that Watoga State Park be developed as quickly as possible so it can be used as an outing place for the public. This work of developing should be carried forward with utmost dispatch rather than be retarded by cutting down forces which at present are none too large to put Watoga State Park in shape to receive guests.

The National Park Service and State Park ECW in co-operation with the Conservation Commission fits in with the scheme of the old fashioned idea of a good time by getting back to nature and taking the women and children along. While visitors to the Yellow Stone National Park number into the hundreds of thousands each year, only a very small percentage of the people can avail themselves of this privilege by reason of great distances from centers of population. Then too, the many visitors who do visit Yellow Stone National Park do not necessarily follow the injunction given of

Mr. Bella F. Yeager

*From Camp Traper
and Pocahontas officials
Sent to Bella Yeager
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old, "to see Venice and die." Even they are possible visitors to Watoga State Park.

The Watoga State Park is partially surrounded by the Monongahela National Forest, and one will supplement the other in that there is no hunting on the park but nice head-quarters in the way of cabins for those who wish to hunt in the National Forest, and it will also furnish recreational areas for these hunters.

There is also unusual attractions in the Watoga State Park for students of geology and botany. Here begin the folded ranges of the endless mountains, and the park will supply headquarters and starting places to study first hand, probably the most interesting geological formations in all the country, without which the knowledge of no student is complete. Witness the continued expeditions of classes from Columbia, Dennison, and other Universities to this region.

As for the students of botany, we have the overlapping of the Canadian, Carolinian, and Virginian species of plants. There is a possibility in the future of this park taking care of field classes in botany not only from colleges and universities, but from high schools as well. No training in this most interesting and absorbing study can be complete without firsthand knowledge of this region where northern and southern flora mix with that you would naturally expect here.

People too, like to visit the Greenbrier Valley because of its rich Colonial, Revolutionary, Indian, and Traditional history. Watoga State Park when ready, will add its attractions to bring students of history here. The Park lies within two miles, connected with paved road, of U. S. Route 219, known as the Seneca Trail.

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The Warrior's Road of James Fennimore Cooper's "Leather Stocking Tales," stretching from the Seneca Lake, New York to Georgia. Locally this road was known as Kentucky Trace, traveled by Daniel Boone and other pioneers. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt writes of this in his "Winning of the West." George Washington referred to the people of this valley, in the darkest days of the War for Independence, as those who would save the country if all came to all. This park was a part of the neutral hunting grounds of Northern, Southern and Western Indian Tribes and as they were loath to give it up, this area became one of the bloodiest battle grounds in the Indian Wars. In the War between the States the sections surrounding this park was virtually a race track for the contending armies.

During the past season on holidays, Sundays, and even work days this park was run over with visitors. The majority of them demanding cabins, picnic grounds and other recreational facilities sufficiently to convince all officers concerned of the popularity of this park when completed.

At the present time there are 24 permanent structures, one dam forming a twelve acre lake, 13 miles of park roads, 14 miles of combination foot, horse and truck trails, 1 mile of electric power line, 12 miles of telephone lines, 23 miles of fencing, one lookout house, three vehicle bridges, 7,000 feet of water line, five drilled wells. In addition to that above, there is now under construction, one dwelling and eight cabins. To bring this park to within a semblance of completion, the following projects are being carried on; one guide and contact station, then additional over night cabins, 4000 feet of sewerage disposal system, two

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miles of telephone lines, four miles of electric power lines, 4000 feet of pipe line, 12 acres of picnic area, five wells and pump houses, four miles of park roads surface for all year around use, two acres of landscaping around dam and lake, two picnic shelters, five miles of fencing, 600 rods of guard rail, 5 camp stoves and fire places, 20 tables and bench combination, forty acres of food cover planting.

A great work is well begun and it will require the combined effort of at least two camps to complete it in the style, within a reasonable time.

West Virginian's should never miss an opportunity to thank and commend our Congressman Randolph for his splendid co-operation, tireless efforts and valuable assistance in his fight to maintain the West Virginia CCC camps at their present strength.

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Inventory of Materials

Topic

Conservation and
Recreation

Title:

Matoga State Park - Camp Seebert

Author:

Rella F. Yeager

Date submitted: _____ Length: 750 words

Editor: _____

Status:

Complete

Contents:

Complete statement on
Matoga Park - Camp Seebert. Gives
directions for reaching Park, descrip-
tion, recreational facilities; Camp
Seebert accomplishments, area, cost,
educational facilities of CCC boys.

Source:

Consultant:

Reliability:

File: _____

Folder: _____

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Topic

Conservation and
Pleasure Area

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Matoga State Park - Camp Seebert

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Date submitted: _____ Length: 750 words

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*Hella Yeager
Hillsboro*

U.S. 279

WATOGA STATE PARK.

*"National Park Service
and Conservation Commission
of West Virginia"*

-2-

Each week of the summer brings larger and larger numbers of tourists to visit Watoga State Park, and to enjoy the beauties of nature so abundantly displayed there. Facilities are being developed to make the Park an even greater attraction to tourists. Near the lake three log cabins to accommodate tourists are being completed. Each of the cabins will provide ample room for a family of five. Each will be furnished with electric lights and running water.

Watoga State Park is doing much to give Pocahontas county an undisputed claim to the title of "The most Beautiful County in West Virginia," a title which no one who has lived long amid its picturesque beauty would ever think of questioning.

The visitors are likely to approach the Park over the Huntersville road and enter at the north corner. From this point, a well built road winds up Pyles Mountain and leads down Island Lick Run at a gentle grade. Mountains tower above on either side. Suddenly the valley widens and an expanse of water appears. This body of water is a recreational lake impounded by a dam constructed by Company 1525, CCC Camp Watoga. The lake covers eleven acres and has a depth of twenty-five feet at the dam. The purpose of this lake is to provide recreation in the form of swimming, boating, and fishing. It plays its part in erosion and flood control.

At the head of the lake is a game enclosure in which many deer, wild turkeys and coons were fed and sheltered during the past winter. A number of these wild game animals including several broods of turkeys may still be seen at the enclosure.

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Other beautiful excursions, some accessible to motor travel, some open to ^{NV}hikers only, are afforded within the nine thousand, six hundred and eighty one acres embraced by the Park.

The National Park Service and Conservation Commission of West Virginia extends to the public an invitation to visit our Parks.

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CAMP SEEBERT

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The work of the CCC has been expressed in many ways, said Congressman Edmiston, but perhaps never better than by a young man with whom I talked while in Camp Watoga. The boy said:

"The CCC has greatly changed the outlook on life I had many months ago when I entered camp. I am no longer discouraged and easily beaten. I believe that I can find a position when I leave camp, and hold it as well as the man who is working next to me. The CCC has given me self-confidence and new ambition to succeed".

There are two companies at Watoga. In the two years they have been there they have constructed twenty-seven miles of excellent road through the mountains, Congressman Edmiston said. He continued to laud the camp, saying that the young men have constructed a forty-foot dam which impounds a beautiful artificial lake. It is being stocked with fish, and it will be a haven for sportsmen when it is opened to the public next summer.

Thirty of a program of fifty attractive log cabins have been built. They will be rented by the week to the public. The camp is built on 11,000 acres of waste timber land which was purchased by the state at \$2.00 per acre, and it is one of the most attractive state parks, said Mr. Edmiston.

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Fire Stations and reforestation work will continue in this part. From the beginning the CCC has judged its projects for their social and economic value, said the congressman. Improvement of forests and parks, reduction of loss from forest fires, insects, tree diseases, halting of soil wastage by erosion, development of public recreational areas, flood control, and conservation of wild life.

The boys in the camps have an opportunity to study and receive special competent instruction in stone masonry, surveying, forestry, terracing, road building, electrical work, project management, agriculture, auto repair, carpentry, cooking, mechanical drawing, radio servicing, and plane surveying. The foresight of President Roosevelt has given them a new lease on life, said Congressman Edmiston.